

Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

SAB-01 SAM-01 SSM-03 /063 W

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R 091542Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1474

INFO AMEMMASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

CONFIDENTIAL BEIRUT 6860

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, LE

SUBJECT: CURRENT POSITION OF LEBANESE MOSLEM NAJADE PARTY

1. SUMMARY. DR. PHILLIP NASSIF, REPRESENTATIVE OF SMALL NAJADE PARTY, ADMITS PARTY HAS DABBLED WITH PALESTINIANS IN PAST AND ACCEPTED AID FROM LIBYA, BUT TODAY IS IN TROUBLE WITH PALESTINIANS AS LEBANESE MOSLEM POPULATION INCREASINGLY ANTI-PALESTINIAN. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF MET AUG 5 WITH DR. PHILLIP NASSIF, A LEADER OOF NAJADE PARTY, NASSIF'S PURPOSE IN REQUESTING MEETING WAS TO SOLICIT USG RELIEF ASSISTANCE, TO BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH HIS PARTY, BUT HE ALSO DISCUSSED CURRENT ACTIVITIES OF HIS PARTY.

3. IDEOLOGICAL ORIENTATION. NASSIF SAID THAT NAJADE PARTY WAS MOSLEM (ALTHOUGH HE HIMSELF IS NOT), NATIONALIST LEBANESE AND "PRO-ARAB." HE SAID IN PAST PARTY HAD DONE SOME THINGS IT WOULD NOT DO TODAY. HE HAD HIMSELF ONCE GONE WITH A PARTY DELEGATION TO LIBYA TO SEEK SUPPORT. QADDHAFI, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS "THREE-QUARTERS CRAZY," WAS ENTHUSIASTIC AND HANDED HIM A CHECK FOR \$15 MILLION

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ON THE SPOT. HE SAID BASIC OBJECTIVE OF PARTY WAS

TO GIVE MEANINGFUL POLITICAL VOICE TO POOR LEBANESE MOSLEMS.

4. RELATIONS WITH PALESTINIANS. NASSIF SAID HIS PARTY HAD ALLIED ITSELF EARLY IN LEBANESE CRISIS WITH PALESTINIANS, BECAUSE HE AND OTHERS THOUGHT PALESTINIAN SUPPORT WOULD HELP THEM SECURE THEIR OWN INTERESTS. THIS WAS AN ERROR, SINCE LEBANESE MOSLEMS HAD TURNED AGAINST PALESTINIANS, WHO HAD

TAKEN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING IN WEST BEIRUT, INCLUDING RADIO STATION, WHICH PREVENTED NAJADE FROM GETTING ITS VIEWS ACROSS TO PUBLIC. SOME NAJADE PARTY PEOPLE HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND BEATEN UP BY PALESTINIANS. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF QUESTION, HE SAID HIS PARTY MILITIA WAS NOT ASDOCIATING ITSELF WITH NEWLY ESTABLISHED WEST BEIRUT "POPULAR SECURITY FORCE" (WHICH INCLUDES AT LEAST ELEMENTS OF FATAH, LAA AND NASSERISTS).

5. PARTY STRENGTH. NASSIF CLAIMED NAJADE HAD TOTAL OF SOME 75,000 MEMBERS, BUT HIS BREAKDOWN WAS AS FOLLOWS: SOME 6-7,000 IN WEST BEIRUT; 2,000 IN TRIPOLI; 7,000 IN THE BEKAA; AND 10-15,000 IN SOUTH LEBANON.

6. COMMENTS: FROM OTHER SOURCES, WE UNDERSTAND THAT NAJADE PARTY, LED BY ADNAN HAKIM, SPLIT IN 1975, WITH BULK OF MEMBERSHIP GOING TO NAJADE RECTIFICATION PARTY, LED BY RAFIC GHANDOUR. NAJADE HAS SOME 50 MILITIAMEN, NAJADE RECTIFICATION HAS SOME 200. NEITHER PARTY HAS ATTRACTED ANY OF LEBANESE MOSLEM INTELLIGENTSIA, WHICH IS OVERWELMINGLY OPPOSED TO POLITICAL CONFESSIONALISM, WHICH NAJADE ESPOUSES. ALTHOUGH NASSIF SPOKE OF SOME DEALINGS WITH PALESTINIANS, THERE IS NO REAL CONNECTION BETWEEN NAJADE AND PLO, WHICH IS FUNDAMENTALLY ANTI-CONFESIONAL. NASSIF HIMSELF IS CHRISTIAN, PARTLY OF PHILIPPINE ORIGIN, BUT CLAIMS INTIMATE PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WITH HAKIM.

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